

Submitter: Eddie Caballero
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2792

02/11/2025

Testimony in Support of HB 2792

To the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards:

I am writing to ask for your support for HB 2792. I have been a nurse for 25 years and have been with Providence St.Vincent since 2005. We nurses have continued to provide care to our community since our contract expired in December 2023. In that time, Providence has consistently dragged its feet in our negotiations. Throughout this process, Providence has repeatedly stated that the costs of what nurses are requesting are unreasonable and financially untenable. Since this is the main argument Providence puts forth in refusing to make fair offers to their striking staff (as of this writing, a strike that is 32 days long; at Providence St Vincent, out of contract 408 days) and continues to receive state and federal tax dollars, a very compelling argument is made to have the health system disclose the cost associated with replacement staff during a strike. I believe making this information public will provide much needed transparency for both State legislators and Oregon taxpayers. If paying replacement out-of-state nurses (including housing, transportation, meals and significantly higher wages) really makes financial sense for this health system, one should ask themselves, "Why would Providence balk at this request and try to keep this information hidden?"

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and I look forward to your support,

Oregon RN